

Slater House, now Elks Club
352 East Main Street
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-252

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

SLATER HOUSE, NOW ELKS CLUB

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Location: 352 East Main Street, Norwich, New London County, Connecticut.

Present Owner: B. P. O. Elks No. 430.

Present Occupant: Owner.

Present Use: Club house.

Brief Statement of Significance: Built about 1827, this brick house is one of the largest examples of the Greek Revival in the area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built for John Fox Slater; later owned by William Osgood.
- B. Date of erection: c. 1827.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: A large brick addition was made to the rear of the building by the present owners when they bought it.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural Character: This is a large, Greek Revival, brick house, built c. 1827.
- 2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

- 1. Overall dimensions: A rectangular main block, five bays wide, two-and-a-half stories high plus an elevated basement, faces south. A large modern wing, two-and-a-half stories high is at the rear.
- 2. Foundations: Regular ashlar granite.
- 3. Wall construction: Brick.
- 4. Porches: The house has a Corinthian, tetraprostyle, entrance portico. The four, two-story high columns are fluted and support a full entablature with a denticulated cornice. The porch has a gable roof with a pedimented gable end to the street.

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5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in the main block located in the outside walls.

6. Openings

- a. Doorways and doors: The entrance has a four-panel door with side lights and top lights in a large, fully ornamented, Greek Revival doorway.
- b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung windows, 6 light over 9 light on first floor; 6 light over 6 light on the second floor; single 3 light sash in the attic windows. Unrelieved window frames with stone lintels and sills. No shutters.

7. Roof

- a. Shape: Hip roof.
- b. Cornice: Denticulated cornice.

- C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: The house has a central hall type plan with four rooms on the main floor and five bedrooms on the second floor.
2. Stairways: The main stairway in the central hall is U-shaped, open string with a molded handrail and turned balusters.
3. Flooring: Wide board flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings; some walls papered.
5. Trim: Dog-eared door and window frames with molded and carved ornament; molded chair rail, coved interior cornice.
6. Heating: Central heating, plus elaborate marble fireplaces.

- D. Site

1. Orientation: The house is situated on a lot sloping up toward the rear. With the elevated basement, the entrance porch is eleven steps high, giving an imposing height to the building from the street.
2. Walks: Originally flagstone, now concrete.

3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal landscaping with lawn and shrubs. Originally the yard had large elm trees.

Prepared by Raymond B. Case
12 Mediterranean Lane
Norwichtown, Connecticut
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